broke off relations with Germany in March, and in August, after the internal dissensions which have been recounted above, declared war. Because of its domestic weakness, China could take no active part in the struggle. It seized the German and Austrian vessels interned in its ports and chartered some of them for the service of the Allies. It permitted what had already begun—the recruiting of Chinese laborers for non-combatant service in England, France, Africa, and Mesopotamia.

To China formal entry into the war brought both advantages and disadvantages. It canceled the portions of the Boxer indemnity due its enemies and obtained the suspension for five years of payments on that indemnity due the Allies—with the exception of most of those owed to Russia and some portions required for supporting educational projects initiated by the return of the indemnity due the United States. It took over the German concessions in Tientsin and Hankow and the Austro-Hungarian concession in Tientsin. This weakening of the privileges enjoyed by some of the Western powers proved later to be no inconsiderable advantage in the campaign against the "unequal treaties." China also obtained a seat at the peace conference, with the hearing of its grievances which that assured. On the other hand, Japan's influence in China was augmented. Although American authorities sought to minimize their significance, by the Lansing-Ishii notes (November, 1917), the one great foreign opponent of Japan's aggressions in China, the United States, by recognizing that Japan, because of "territorial propinquity," had "special interests in China," appeared to have acceded to Japan's claims. A "war participation board" with a Japanese adviser, an "arms contract,"

and extensive loans by Japan to Peking on the security of railways, mines, forests, telegraphs, taxes, and bonds seemed ominous. In 1918, the two countries entered into agreements for military and naval cooperation, chiefly against a possible menace from the North. Such "cooperation," of course, would mean more Japanese control.

For a time, too, it looked as though Japan might substitute herself for Russia in Northern Manchuria. With the Russian revolution of 1917 and the temporary chaos before the new Socialist Soviet Republic eliminated opposing elements, Eastern Siberia fell into disorder. There was intervention (1918) in